

### Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall  
379 Mohawk Trail  
Drury, MA 01343

May 24, 2023

6:02 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

Select Board members present: Neil Oleson, Mike Bedini, Terry I. Green

Select board members absent: None

Others present: Joan Lewis, Ron Bosley, Cindy Bosley, Marty McEvoy, Stephanie Pare, Becky Choquette, Roger Randall, Jim White, Al Bedini

Select board:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the Select board minutes from the regular Select board meeting of May 10, 2023 and the joint Select board/Finance Committee meeting from May 10, 2023. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
- IT RFP's are due Friday, May 26, 2023. Select board meeting being scheduled to open the bids on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 6pm.
- Neil questioned to Cindy if the Finance Committee would like another joint meeting scheduled with the Select board. Cindy updated the board that she has spoken with Jim regarding his budget and the vehicles in his department. The highway crew spend a large amount of their time repairing vehicles. The finance committee is going to recommend that the entire fleet be replaced one by one, either yearly or biyearly.
- Jim presented some information found online from dealers to estimate the expense of a truck to be paid for out of the FY 2024 budget. Terry asked if he had checked with Sourcewell. Jim found they stopped taking orders in January and have not come out with the 2024 information yet. Stephanie suggested checking with dealers for a municipal discount as well. Roger Randall questioned vehicle warranties. If the truck is approved at town meeting then it will go out to bid.
- Stephanie Pare discussed the playground fundraiser that has been ongoing. The playground is very old and in need of replacing and is the only playground in the town. Active fundraising has been ongoing and a grant is also being researched. The estimate to replace it is \$80,000.00. To date \$30,000.00 has been raised. Photos were presented to the board. They would like to propose funding to the town at the annual town meeting. The price does not include assembly. It is done as a community build. Someone will come out and give instructions to the volunteers.
  - Terry I. Green made a motion to add the playground to the town warrant in the amount of \$60,00.00. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Letter presented for signature for Bakke property on Bliss Road that they owners needed for insurance purposes stating the town would maintain and plow the road.

Select Board Initials \_\_\_\_\_

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Select board (continued):

- Mike Bedini made a motion for the town highway to finish to completion plowing of Bliss Road during the plowing season. Terry I. Green seconded with one correction that the spelling of her name be corrected. Unanimous.
- Terry I. Green made a motion to approve the Select board minutes from the regular Select board meeting of April 26, 2023 and the joint Select board/Finance Committee meeting on April 26, 2023. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
- National Grid requested a pole hearing to place poles on a part of Monroe Road. Pole hearing has been scheduled for June 7, 2023 Select board meeting.
- Mike Bedini made a motion to appoint Cindy Bosley as the representative for the Town of Florida to the Berkshire Regional Transit. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Joan will act as the backup representative for the Berkshire Regional Transit should Cindy be unable to attend.
- Mike asked who takes care of the annual town reports. Ron responded the Town Administrator does but they check with all the departments. Joan responded Lisa offered to help with it.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Chipping brush, cutting trees
- Two trucks following sweeper. Gave sand to any residents that wanted some.
- McCann students finished the community shed.
- Putting millings down on Monroe Road, South County Road, Church Road and South County East Road.
- Mowing sides of road
- Replaced culvert on backside of Tilda Hill Road that was rotted out and on Stryker Road.
- Water and sewer system up and working at town hall.
- Presented a permit for Gene Darby to do beaver trapping at Tower Swamp. Starting May 30, 2023 for 10 days. The cost is \$825.00. Signed by Al Bedini and Neil Oleson on behalf of the Board of Health.
- Richard from Warners informed Jim they are going to start milling Route 2 next week. They will be starting where they left off near Eastern Summit and working towards North Adams. He will contact Jim with a price on the millings. Would like to do some of South County Road to raise it up 4-6".
- Starting Tilda Hill Rd the week of June 14, 2023.
- Has 70 hours of vacation time left. Not sure it can be used before the end of the year.
- Mike asked what all the dirt is being piled up on North County Road. Jim responded Warners is using it as a staging area right now.
- West Oil has not come out with a price yet. Jim asked Joan if she heard anything from [www.commbuys.com](http://www.commbuys.com) for diesel fuel and heating. Joan found it changes when you enter the date. You can also lock in for a certain amount. Did not find out about delivery. Terry gave Joan a list of questions to ask them.

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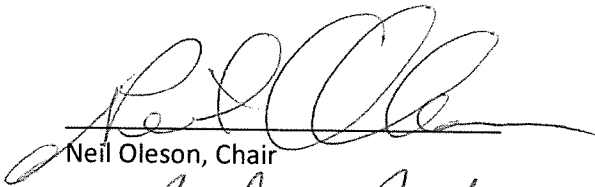
Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Worked with Lisa on getting the census out

Public Comment:

- Ron Bosley discussed the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts. There are currently 18 towns participating. It costs the town zero to join and only requires the Select board vote to join and then appoint a town representative. It is local grant funding and offers municipal funding trying to enhance the small towns.
  - Terry I. Green made a motion for the town to join Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
  - Terry I. Green made a motion to appointment Ron Bosley as the representative for the Town of Florida to the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts.
- Ron Bosley asked if Joan had checked into a grant (grant name was inaudible on recording). Joan and Jim completed yesterday and they will call together.


Terry I. Green made a motion to adjourn at 7:11 pm. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.



Neil Oleson, Chair



Michael Bedini



Terry I. Green

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